President.—We have got 85 Panchayats.

Mr. EPHRAIM AMBOOKEN (*Adur*)

It is only to bring these matters to the notice of the Government that I have brought this motion.

The motion was permitted to be withdrawn, and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXVII.—Public Works—Rs. 14·08 lakhs.

President.—We next proceed to Demand XXVII, Public Works. Before we take up the consideration of that demand, I wish to point out that there are motions by more than one member on the same subject; for instance, in regard to T. A. there are motions by Mr. Eachara Menon, Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon, Mr. C. A., Ouseph, and Mr. M. K. Raman. In regard to buildings, there are three motions, some against the construction of a Leper Asylum by Mr. Ramachandra Ayyar, Mr. C. A. Ouseph, and Mr. Saiem; and in regard to the First Grade College also, there are three motions. I think, we might allow the motion of one of the members to be taken up, and we may discuss all the motions together. Now, I call upon the Chief Engineer to move for the grant.

Mr. V. K. ARAVINDAKSHA MENON (*Chief Engineer*).

Sir, I have pleasure in moving for a grant of Rs. 9,20,259 for the P. W. D. I shall hastily run through the differences in allotments between this year and the next year. In establishment, the excess is due to the pay of the temporary clerk in the Northern Division and periodical increments, &c. Increased provision for T. A. has been due to the increased T. A. of the executive officers. Both Divisions have first class officers now. Their daily allowance as well as that of the sub-divisional officers have been raised on account of the revision. The other items under establishment do not call for any special remarks.

For "Communications—Original" a sum of Rs. 1,75,094 is asked for, against the revised estimate of Rs. 2,08,320 of 1100. The decrease is due to having closed many long pending works this year and in not making provisions for flood damages, as in the case of this year. For "Communication-Repairs and Maintenance" an allotment of Rs. 1,70,395 is asked for, against

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Rs. 2,00,157 provided in the revised budget of this year. The decrease is mainly due to the fact that this year could not be considered a normal one on account of the floods of 1099.

Coming on to Buildings, the allotment asked for Original Works is Rs. 1,72,272 against Rs. 3,46,000 of the revised budget. The difference is mainly due to the fact that the revised budget figuresinclude such items as are classed now as non-votable. This contemplates, among other items, the construction of two buildings, one for the First Grade College and the other for the Leper Asylum.

The next is Irrigation. For Irrigation, I am asking for Rs. 1,14,751 against Rs. 1,12,849 of this year. Improvements to the Mullurkayal and the Enamakkal Dam figure prominently in the works proposed.

Under "Survey and Investigation charges", an allotment of Rs. 3,000 is asked for. This is due to special survey works in contemplation for the construction of a dam across the Kallai River and to investigate *Kole* cultivation in all its details.

Then, coming to the Mechanical Department under Establishment the figures are very much the same for the next year as for this year. For the College Gas and Electric Plant, a sum of Rs. 12,380 is asked for, against Rs. 3,744 of this year. Provision is made for extending the Mains and for the purchase of a new engine and Dynamo to meet the increased demand of the First Grade College and X-ray Laboratory.

Under "Dredger and Pulso meter", Rs. 14,791 is asked for, against Rs. 1,988 of this year.

For Water-works a sum of a lakh is asked for. Apart from running charges, the cost of a piston and a half-a-million gallons capacity-of-storage-tank is included.

For Canals a sum of Rs. 10,713, against Rs. 8,956, is asked. The increase is due to the supply of rain-coats to the staff and construction of jetties.

Then, a provision of Rs. 25,000 for the Mattancheri Electric Lighting is asked. I have already explained to this House how this is not an expenditure

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

but an investment. I hope no further explanation is necessary on this point.

Motion Nos. 73 to 76.

Mr. A. EACHARA MENON (*Chittur*)

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 15,000 for T. A. by Rs. 4,000.

Mr. PAULO MAMPILLI (*Narakkal*).

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 15,000 for T. A. by Rs. 2,000.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 15,000 for T. A. by Rs. 5,000.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN (*Ezhuva South*),

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 15,000 for T. A. by Rs. 8 000.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

Page 3 of the Appendix B. They are opening a road from the Irinjalakkuda Anchal Office to Parayankadavu. There is already a road in existence.

President.—There is a road there. We have to metal it.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

There is already an old road to Parayankadavu. Is there any necessity for this new road?

President.—Considerable difficulty is felt on account of the proximity of the temple. People find it difficult to manage without it.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

Am I to understand that the opening of this new road is undertaken on account of the proximity of the old road to the temple?

President.—An answer has already been given.

Mr. A. EACHARA MENON (*Chittur*).

I withdraw my motion.

The motion was withdrawn with leave.

President.—Mr. Poulo Mampilli is absent.

The motion was, therefore, deemed to have been withdrawn.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

n*Sir*, I have sufficient confidence that whatever money is voted for the department is in safe hands.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

But, if we look through the figures in the budget from 1099 onwards, we will see that there is a large increase in T. A. It was about Rs. 12,000 for 1099 and Rs.13,000 for 1100 while for 1101 is demanded Rs.15,000, so that from 12,000 it has increased to 15,000. Of course, there is an explanation given by the Chief Engineer that there are three first class officers in his department, and I know that was the result of the revision effected. During the last regime there were three Assistant Engineers, and the Darbar wanted to reduce them into two. As a result of this revision, we are spending more than what we used to spend on them by way of salary and T. A.

President.—If we have three Engineers, we would have to incur this expenditure. What is gained in the reduction of the establishment is spent on the establishment.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

And the Chief Engineer has to keep a personal assistant. I brought this motion just to bring it to the attention of this House. I withdraw it.

The Council's permission was obtained to withdraw the motion.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN (*Ezhuva South*).

Sir, I withdraw the motion.

The House allowed Mr. Raman too to withdraw his cut.

Motion Nos. 77 to 79.

Mr. T. A. RAMACHANDRA AYYAR (*Nellayi*).

To omit the allotment of Rs. 25,000 for the construction of a Leper Asylum.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

To omit the allotment of Rs. 25,000 for the construction of a Leper Asylum.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

To omit the allotment of Rs. 25,000 for the construction of a Leper Asylum.

Mr. T. A RAMACHANDRA AYYAR (*Nellayi*).

Mr. President, under the above head, I have asked for the omission of Rs. 25,000 for the construction of an-

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

other Leper Asylum, with which I have already dealt with in the course of my observations on the budget. While fully endorsing the opinion of the Hon'ble Member for Medicine that every possible effort should be made to give the maximum relief for alleviating the distress of the unfortunate victims of this fell disease, I must say that the House has a claim to be informed as to the why and wherefore of giving up a building specially built for them. The Hon'ble Member for Chalakkudi has dealt at length on the unsatisfactory grounds on which those buildings came to be abandoned for this purpose. The present financial condition of the State, not being very cheery, I would, however, request the Government to reconsider their decision in the matter of housing the lepers at Anappara, so that, without any capital investment at present, they could be given adequate relief.

It is, therefore, that I move for the omission of a quarter of a lakh of rupees, which I hope the House will support.

President.—Are you for locating a Leper Asylum at Anappara? Is it on account of the want of finance, or is it on account of the suitability of the place?

Mr. T. A. RAMACHANDRA AYYAR (*Nellayi*).

No place has been settled.

President.—We have got a place in Adur. The Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer inspected the place and found it suitable. Estimates have been called for and submitted.

Mr. T. A. RAMACHANDRA AYYAR (*Nellayi*).

If there is no opposition to have it at Anappara, the matter may be reconsidered. I will be the last man to stand in the way of doing any good to these unfortunates. I am prepared to vote even for double this amount, if I am made sure that the money will not be ill spent as at Anappara. On such an assurance, I withdraw my motion.

Mr. Ramachandra Ayyar was allowed to withdraw his cut.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

Sir, we are coming round again to this unpleasant matter. Many of His Highness' subjects are not

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

satisfied with the way in which the idea of locating a Leper Asylum at Anappara has been abandoned. Not that I press that the Leper Asylum should be at Anappāra. I myself am a Trichurian.

President.—You want it at Anappara?

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

Whether to have it there or not is to be decided after proper investigation by an expert. In fact, going through the reasons that are given for the abandonment of the scheme, I am not convinced that the buildings should not be used for the Leper Asylum. Sir, you were pleased to say that, before the project was abandoned, the Chief Medical Officer and the Diwan inspected the site. So also, Sir, the Chief Medical Officer and the Diwan visited the site more than once along with other people of the Trichur Town, before the building was taken in hand. At the time when the Anappara buildings were being raised, there were the Gōkulōdayam buildings rising up in the vicinity. The people of Trichur had ample occasion and opportunity to know that the Anappara buildings were being raised in order to locate the Leper Asylum. No objection was forthcoming for two or three years. After that, we find a series of objections coming forth and the Municipality hastening anxiously to take up the matter. I should not be understood to state that the Leper Asylum should be at Anappara and nowhere else. We cannot spend more money, when we are already crying hoarse about want of funds. And we cannot abandon a project completed without adequate grounds. What are the grounds given for abandoning the Anappara Asylum? This is what the Government says: "Objections were raised by the Trichur Municipal Council and the inhabitants of Trichur and the neighbourhood of Anappara and effect was given to them". Absolutely nothing is stated regarding the grounds which actuated the Government to abandon the idea.

President.—In one of our answers it is given.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

Available papers have been placed on the table, but they do not shed any more light on the matter.

President.—We have been receiving petitions.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

Petitions are cheap, but the Government have to see whether there are any reasonable objections stated therein. If the objections are reasonable, I would be the first to vote for the abandonment of the scheme, and I would not request the House to reconsider the matter. Captain A. R. Puduval, who inspected the site at the instance of the Trichur Municipality, says in his report: "In the present state of our knowledge of the subject, it would be impossible to state whether the proximity of the proposed institution could affect unfavourably the inhabitants of the neighbourhood and of Trichur."

The whole objection of the inhabitants of Trichur thus falls to the ground. Nothing can be said about the site being unsuitable. There are only objections. But the expert was unable to say whether a leper asylum at the site would affect the object. Without making sure that it would affect them, the Government would not be justified in abandoning the scheme.. Captain Puduval says further: "It is quite probable that the establishment of the Leper Asylum at the site in question might make those localities abandoned by the public, at least for a time, until people get used to it."

Now, here there is only speculation. There is no expert opinion given here We, laymen, can very well speculate like this. This abandonment may happen in any part of the State. The reason given by the Government for the abandonment of the scheme is not satisfactory. I submit expert opinion should be taken regarding the matter. The location of a Leper Asylum will not be appreciated by the inhabitants of any locality. If experts opine that the location of the Asylum at Anappara will constitute a danger to Trichur, then the question of putting up a new Leper Asylum can be considered. Until then the Government should not venture on this scheme.

President.—We may stop here.

The Council adjourned for an hour at 2 p. m. It met again after lunch to discuss the motions on the allotment for the construction of a Leper Asylum.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. M. K. RAMAN (*Ezhuva South*).

Sir, when speaking of the Leper Asylum, there are two questions to be considered by us. That is, whether the Leper Asylum or the College is to be located at Anappara. Both cannot exist together there. The College and the Leper Asylum would not very much agree with each other. From the Hon'ble Member for Education we have understood that the University Commission has proposed this as a very favourable site for the location of College buildings. If there is water convenience also, it is very likely that this would be one of the most suitable places for locating the College. Then, in that case, we cannot have the Leper Asylum there. But we have already spent two lakhs of rupees.

President.—It can be utilised for College purposes.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN (*Ezhuva South*).

I do not know whether the building constructed will be suitable for College purposes.

Mr. C. MATTHAI (*Director of Public Instruction*).

It is for residential purposes, &c.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN (*Ezhuva South*).

Well, Sir. Let us take the Anappara question again. I am myself a Trichurian, and as such, I will be the last man to take the Leper Asylum to Trichur. But I cannot be so very selfish. The Leper Asylum, however, has to be located somewhere. It is said that at Adur they have found out a place. The Hon'ble Member for Adur, I believe, may protest against that. In fact, nobody wants the Leper Asylum to be brought near him. Fortunately, one Hon'ble Member, I mean the member from Chittur, seems to invite the Leper Asylum. It may then be safely sent to that quarter of the State. What I want to submit to this House is only that we should not have another costly experiment tried, as the one we had at Trichur, for the location of the Leper Asylum. We cannot spend another two or three lakhs of rupees for an experiment. Wherever it may be, if it should be begun at all, it must be only after a thorough investigation. Peoples' objections we should not wait for. They seem to be reluctant to

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

put in objections at the proper time. When it is very late, probably, they will come forward with objections. It is, therefore, very unsafe to rely upon peoples' objections. After spending some more money, we should not again abandon that scheme.

President:—The site, of course, must be investigated.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN (*Ezhuva South*).

Again, I do not think it desirable to have a Leper Asylum on the borders of a growing town like Trichur. About the contagious nature and life-history of the bacilli, even doctors differ. I do not know myself anything about the disease. But, if it is contagious, as I believe it is, then it will be very unwise, if we have the Asylum at Anappara. Further, there is a stream running down from the hills, somewhere near Trichur.

President.—The Thannikkudam River.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN (*Ezhuva South*).

Yes, Sir. I believe it is the Thannikkudam River. Of course, although I am selfish about Trichur, I know I ought to be interested in public welfare also. The Hon'ble Member says that no harm would be done to anybody, if the Leper Asylum is taken to his side. Well, we should be very glad to comply with his request.

President.—We must take proper care, so that we would not get the contagion. We have also to see that the lepers are comfortably attended to. They are not to be cast away.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN (*Ezhuva South*).

It is not out of any disregard for them or to do them any harm that I say that the Leper Asylum should be sent to that part. We have to sympathise more with ourselves than with the lepers. It is only for self-protection. At the same time, the lepers also should be given as much comfort and shelter as possible.

President.—I do not know whether Velangankunnu is a place suitable for it.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN (*Ezhava South*).

It is immaterial where the site is. What I want to place before this House is that we should not have

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

this experiment tried once again at a cost of 3 lakhs of rupees.

Mr. EPHRAIM AMBOOKEN (*Adur*).

Sir, the Leper Asylum question is becoming a serious one, and as far as I came to know from this House, the Leper Asylum is going to be located in my constituency.

President.—Are you for locating it at Anappara?

Mr. EPHRAIM AMBOOKEN (*Adur*).

I am not for locating it at Anappara. I am not for locating it at Adur also. Because, as the present situation seems, the people of Adur may think that the Government is purposely doing them a harm. As the Anappara buildings have been constructed for this purpose, and if it is to be shifted now to Adur, the people would think that the Government is purposely doing them a harm. They may misunderstand it.

President.— Why not we make them understand properly?

Mr. EPHRAIM AMBOOKEN (*Adur*).

Before doing anything further, the Government must take up the question once again and make all investigations and publish it for the information of the public.

President.— But don't you see, if you invite objections, as one Hon'ble Member said, no place will be free from objections. One member was inviting the Asylum to Chittur. From there too objections may be forthcoming.

Dr. A. G. MENON (*Tattamangalam*).

There are waste lands.

Mr. EPHRAIM AMBOOKEN (*Adur*).

There might be. I don't press against it. According to Christian principle, we cannot do that. We must encourage all sorts of poor. We must inform the Adurians, before we take the Leper Asylum to them, that it is the only suitable place in the Cochin State. Only after making all investigations and publications, the thing must be taken to that side. My only point is that the allotment now made is to be cut off, so far as it is not properly investigated.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON (*Mulakunnattukavu*).

You want to completely attack the question.

Mr. EPHRAIM AMBOOKEN (*Adur*).

The Government should not be so very hasty. On the assurance that I get from the Hon'ble Member for Mulakunnattukavu, I withdraw my motion. At Adur it is not the Leper Asylum that we want but public roads; and if the Cochin Government are to locate the Leper Asylum there, they may be disappointed in having this Council in our State, since they may think that it is the outcome of the Council.

Mr. M. KRISHNA MENON (*Vyttila*).

At least you get that.

Mr. EPHRAIM AMBOOKEN (*Adur*).

No, my idea is to protest against the suggestion.

Mr. V. K. KOCHUNNI MENON (*Ernakulam*)

Sir, I do not think there is any ground for reconsidering the decision of the Government in this matter. The question whether leprosy is contagious or not is at least a matter of doubt, even according to Medical men. If so, there is the chance of the health of Trichur being injuriously affected by the location of the Leper Asylum at Anappara, which is only about a mile or two from the town. Trichur being the most important town of the State, why should we take that risk, if the same can be avoided?

The assertion by some of the previous speakers that no objection was taken to the location there, before the buildings were contemplated, is not true. As soon as we came to know of the decision of the Government in the matter, some of us objected to the selection of the site to the then Diwan; but our objections were then unheeded. We only renewed our objections—and that successfully—when he was succeeded in the Diwanship by a native of the State. The Government having thus given up the idea after mature consideration, sufficient ground has not been pointed out for necessitating a reconsideration.

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON (*Mulakunnattukavu*)

Sir, I would like to say something about the history of the Asylum. When the Diwan, Mr. Vijayaraghava Chari,

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

first inspected the site, he asked me to accompany him. Dr. Coombes, Mr. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar and myself accompanied him; and after inspection, the Diwan asked my opinion about the site. I said, "it is an ideal site, but as it is near Trichur, a growing town, why should we risk having the Asylum in a place like that?" I suggested another site, that is, on the side west of the Attanikkal Police Station near Mulakunnattukavu. There is plenty of open space there and no houses in the neighourhood. Another site near the Velangankunnu was also suggested. A third site to the east of the Railway line between Adur and Chalakkudi was also mentioned. This last was the site pitched upon. Mr. Vijayaraghava Chari agreed; and I was under the impression that the site near Anappara was given up, till I saw the notification in the Gazette for the acquisition of that site.

President.—So there was protest from the very beginning, from the day the site was inspected?

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON (*Mulakunnattukavu*).

Yes, Sir. I may also add that Mr. Vijayaraghava Chari then told us he would not spend more than Rs. 50,000 upon the Asylum.

President.—The expenditure has exceeded double the original estimate.

Mr. T. A. RAMACHANDRA AYYAR (*Nellayi*).

Sir, I would be the last man to stand in the way of doing good to the lepers. My objection in bringing this motion for a cut is simply that no more money should be wasted in an undertaking like this. That is all my object. I withdraw this cut.

The motion was withdrawn with leave.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

I don't press it, Sir. Nobody says that a Leper Asylum is not necessary.

Mr. Ouseph's cut was permitted to be withdrawn.

Mr. Salem being absent, his motion was taken to have been withdrawn.

Adjournment motion.

Mr. CHAKKO CHERUVATHUR (*Vadakkancheri*).

Under Rule 26 of the Standing Orders, Page 12 of the Rules, I want to move for the adjournment of

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly